

#12/1603
8/22/02

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 42445.00079



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Examiner: John J. Gallagher

Paul W. Romig, et al.

Serial No.: 09/810,794

Art Unit: 1733

Filed: March 15, 2001

Title: METHODS FOR PREVENTING CONTAMINATION OF PRODUCTS
FROM PRODUCT LABELS AND ADHESIVES

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 4, 2002, please consider the following remarks.

Claims 1 through 7 and 11 through 18 are pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1 through 7 and 11 through 18 were rejected in the Office Action dated June 4, 2002.

In section of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 2, 5 – 7, 11 – 12, and 15 – 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,547,294 to Beverly E. Williams (referred to hereinafter as “*Williams*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 distinguishes over *Williams* by at least reciting:

obtaining a semi-permeable container having a polymeric external surface;
obtaining a metallic layer;
placing the metallic layer against the external surface; and
melting at least a portion of the external surface beneath the metallic layer.

In contrast, per the Examiner, *Williams* teaches “a process wherein the metallic layer is... directly fused to the outer surface of the bottle by means of the *application of heat and pressure...*” (emphasis added). In contrast, claim 1 does not require the application of pressure.